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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION III

841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Mr. A.B.M. Houston
c/o Ford Motor Company
SSECO - Suite 608
15201 Century Drive
Dearborn, Michigan 48120

NOV 15 1989

Re: Butler Mine Tunnel Site
Oversight Report

Dear Mr. Houston:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a minor problem identified by EPA's oversight contractor during sampling activities of October 31, 1989. Upon my review of the "problem" identified by EPA's oversight contractor, I determined that it should not cause serious concern and should not affect EPA's decisions on potential site remedies. However, I strongly recommend that Gannett Fleming's field personnel adhere to Region III sampling and preservation protocols as described in the Susquehanna River Sampling Program Design and attachments.

Specifically, samples were not checked to see if preservation was needed until all samples were brought to a central location, i.e., the storage facility. The need for sample preservation should be determined at the sampling location, if possible, as discussed in the Region III QA Directive attached to Gannett Fleming's Susquehanna River Sampling Program Design. In particular, if the sample source contains chlorine, the preservative (ascorbic acid) should be added to the container before the sample is collected. In addition, preservation of samples should be completed as quickly as possible to avoid possible degradation of contaminants.

Please respond briefly to this issue in the next monthly project report and discuss corrective action as necessary. To the maximum extent possible, please adhere to Region III QA policy during upcoming sampling activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Towle", is written over the typed name.

Michael Towle
Remedial Project Manager

cc: A.F. Miorin

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